

**Amendments to the Claims:**

These amendments to the claims replace any previously filed version of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A resin coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer characterized by comprising spherical ferrite particles, having wherein said spherical particles consist of ferrite and have an average particle size of 20 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , a surface uniformity of 92 to 100%, an average sphericity of 1 to 1.3, and a sphericity standard deviation of 0.125 or less.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The resin-coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer according to claim 1, wherein the spherical ferrite particles have an apparent density of 2.0 to 2.6  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$  a magnetization of 40 to 90  $\text{Am}^2/\text{kg}$  in a magnetic field of 79.5  $\text{A}/\text{m}$ , and a scattered material magnetization of 80% or more of a main body magnetization.

4. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a resin-coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer, the process comprising weighing and mixing ferrite raw materials, crushing the mixture, granulating the obtained slurry obtained crushed mixture to produce granules, pre-sintering the granules at 500 to 700  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , sintering the granules for 0.1 to 5 hours at a sintering temperature of 1200 to 1400  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  under

fluidization, and coating the sintered material, with a resin, characterized in that the granules are pre-sintered at 500 to 700 °C before sintering, the sintering is performed for 0.1 to 5 hours at a sintering temperature of 1200 to 1400 °C while the granules are made to flow by fluidizing means.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a resin-coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer according to claim 4, wherein the sintering is performed by a rotary sintering furnace granules are sintered in a rotary sintering furnace.

8. (Original) The process for producing a resin-coated carrier for an electrophotographic developer according to claim 7, wherein the rotary sintering furnace has a retort rotation speed of 0.5 to 10 rpm, a retort inclination of 0.5 to 4°, an inlet hammering frequency of 10 to 300 times/min, and an outlet hammering frequency of 10 to 300 times/min.

9. (Previously Presented) An electrophotographic developer comprising the resin-coated carrier according to claim 1 and a toner.